(3) Under the new rules, the supari cess is levied on trees more than 6 feet in height. The cess should be levied only on trees in bearing as most trees do not bear when 6 feet high.

Reply of Government.—The matter has been engaging the attention of Government. Dr. Coleman has been requested to pay special attention to the investigation of *Koleroga* and has been carrying on experiments extensively, even leasing small gardens for the purpose. It is not possible to employ a full-time officer solely to study questions connected with supari.

SUBJECT No. 81.

(*a*) Remuneration to patels and shanbhogs.

Messrs. C. Nagappa, Nagar Taluk; B. Kesavaiengar, Belur Taluk; Sreenivas Sitharam Kulkarni, Harihar Sub-Taluk; Lingegowda, Mysore Taluk and Malali Venkatramayya, Manjarabad Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The shanbhogs' circles are so constituted that the potgi of each circle ranges from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 per month. As the duties require the full time of a man, each circle may be so constituted that the aggregate potgi for it may not fall short of Rs. 12 per mensem.

The potgi to be paid to shanbhogs is now calculated, not separately for each village included in the circle, but on the aggregate revenue of all the villages. Last year it was represented that the revenue of each individual village should be taken as the basis for calculating the potgi payable to each shanbhog. This matter was noted for consideration, and it is now prayed that this method may be adopted. The remuneration given to some of the patels in the malnad is insufficient for their maintenance. Under the present rules, a shanbhog or patel can hold only one circle, whatever its jamabandi may be. Either this rule may be relaxed or the potgi revised so as to yield a monthly income of at least Rs. 5 to each patel.

When the subject of raising the scale of potgi to patels and shanbhogs was discussed last year, Government replied that the rates of potgi were sufficiently high as nearly 8·09 per cent of the revenue collections was consumed by this item and that the potgi was revised once in ten years and oftener, if necessary. As the rate of potgi according to the Rules of 1874 falls within 5 per cent of the revenue collections, the rate of potgi may be raised so as to increase the total amount paid to 8 or 9 per cent of the collections as observed by Government in the above reply.

The potgi fixed in 1896 in the Harihar Sub-Taluk has not yet been revised, though 12 years have elapsed, and the increased potgi computed upon the increased revenue accruing from the re-survey settlement has not been paid for the past 4 or 5 years. Orders may be issued for the disbursement of the same.

1. Enclosure to Pahani Takhta.
2. Statement of particulars of estates as per village Form No. 5 (Rent Roll).
3. Statement of lands under cultivation.
4. Miscellaneous accounts other than the Saljhade Averja, etc.

(*b*) Relaxation of the rule of appointing a shanbhog for each firka.

Messrs. Lakshminaranappa, Heggaddevankote Taluk; and S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

In addition to the prescribed village accounts the shanbhogs are now required to render the marginally noted accounts in addition to those called for by the local authorities from time to time. Government having increased the pay of the taluk establishments, school masters and officials of other departments, it is requested that the potgi of the shanbhogs may be increased.

(*b*) Many shanbhogi firkas were split up at the time of the Survey Settlement, and it is now required that every firka should have either a shanbhog or a gumasta. This has entailed much hardship on poor shanbhogs. As the village accounts are now simplified and as the present incumbents are more intelligent than their predecessors, it is prayed that the above restriction may be removed except in the cases in which the Deputy Commissioner considers that the shanbhog is inefficient and cannot attend to the work of more villages than one.

MR. KESAVA IYENGAR.—The present scale of remuneration is inadequate in the case of most shanbhogs as they have practically to devote their whole time to the work and they have generally no other means of livelihood. The cost of living has considerably increased but the old rates of payment are still adhered to. Shanbhogs were formerly able to make up for the insufficiency of the income by being in charge of two or more circles. Now the rule of having a single shanbhog for each circle is strictly enforced. At the time the circles were constituted more care was taken to interfere as little as possible with existing hereditary rights than to form circles solely with a view to provide each shanbhog with sufficient work and assure an adequate remuneration to him. The potgi of some circles is very little and it is impossible to get gumastas for them.

DEWAN.—Would you then consent to have all the circles revised entirely with reference to administrative convenience?

MR. MALALI VENKATRAMAYYA.—This will interfere with vested hereditary rights. In some cases it will tend to diminish the potgi the present shanbhogs are drawing. The best plan seems to be to relax the rule regarding the appointment of a separate shanbhog for each circle. If one shanbhog is able to manage the work of more than one circle, there is nothing detrimental to Government interests in permitting him to be in charge of two circles. Local officers may be given some discretion in these cases and they can always remove incompetent persons.

MR. LINGEGOWDA.—The remuneration of patels also is inadequate and a rule may be passed that no patel should be paid less than Rs. 25 a year as potgi.

Reply of Government.—The cases of patels and shanbhogs are not identical. In the case of patels the office is chiefly sought for on account of the honour it confers and they should not therefore attach much importance to the potgi. There seems to be some hardship to shanbhogs under the existing rules. The Revenue Commissioner and the Superintendent of Survey will be requested to consider the question as to how the hardship complained of, *viz.*, that according to the existing rules several shanbhogs do not receive adequate remuneration, may be removed and submit proposals to Government.

SUBJECT NO. 82.

Joint hakdar patels and shanbhogs to be permitted to work by rotation.

Mr. B. Sitaramaiya, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—When there is more than one registered hakdar patel and shanbhog for the same office, they should be allowed to do the duties by rotation.

Reply of Government.—In passing the Village Offices Regulation, this has been finally decided to be inexpedient and the question cannot be reconsidered.

SUBJECT NO. 83.

A single patel for the entire achkat of a tank.

Mr. Huchiregowda, Gubbi Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—There should be one patel only for the entire garden, wet or *neersardi* lands under a tank without regard to the question whether they belong to one and the same village or to different villages; and all maps should be rectified accordingly.

Under the existing system, it is not the patel who is entrusted with the maintenance of the headworks and the distribution of water that is entitled to have the water rate on lands irrigated by the tank included in the revenue for the calculation of the potgi due to him, but the patel in whose village the lands on which the water rate is paid are situated has the water rate included in the revenue on which his potgi is calculated. The member spoke with special reference to the Kadaba-Amanikere in the Tumkur Taluk and represented how difficult it was to make a proper distribution of water and maintain the tank owing to there being a large number of patels responsible for it.

MR. RAMANUJA IYENGAR:—The proposal is impracticable. It will not only interfere with vested hereditary rights but in the case of tanks having a large revenue it will be impossible for one patel to discharge the duties satisfactorily. He will not also have sufficient influence to collect all the raiyats together when there is danger to the tank or get the maintenance work done. The difficulties brought to notice in the case of the Kadaba-Amanikere tank are due to factions in the villages.

Mr. M. Venkatramayya also spoke against the proposition.